

Horseman Gets Three As Wycombe Walk It

By "CHILTERN"

Wycombe Wanderers 4, Walthamstow Avenue 1.

WYCOMBE Wanderers continued to play with the snap that re-appeared at St. Albans a fortnight ago, when they gave Walthamstow Avenue the run around at Loakes Park on Saturday. Their display repaid the efforts of the ground staff who had worked from early morning clearing the pitch of snow to get it in playing condition.

It's goals that count at this stage of the season, and this one should never have been given away. But it can be forgiven. Wycombe played so much better for their supporters than in recent home outings that hopes must be high for tomorrow's Amateur Cup game against Penrith.

The game started a few minutes late after Avenue's coach had been held up in the Twickenham rugby traffic. And right from the kick-off confident Wycombe had the Avenue struggling to catch up.

FLAWS

Wanderers soon found flaws in the Walthamstow defence and plugged away at them. Goalkeeper Granger looked suspect in the air, and time after time Bates, operating on the right flank, smacked over dangerous looking centres.

Three times Tony Horseman had hard luck with headers before the 36th minute when his curly head converted the first of his three fine goals.

Gale was the instigator of the goal. After dribbling through he feigned a pass out to the right wing, then suddenly pivoted and thumped a peach of a pass across the goalmouth for Horseman to head home past the startled Granger.

It was a goal that had to come.

The Walthamstow goal had been under constant pressure right from the start and all the Wycombe forwards, both by bad luck and bad judgement, had misused chances.

Eight minutes later Horseman beat Granger in fine style after a good bit of work by Bates. The centre-forward, having a better time than for several weeks, challenged 17-years-old, Chelsea Youth full-back Keith Brewer, robbed him and put Horseman through. It was a fine piece of opportunism and so good to see after his slap-happy performances of recent weeks.

HIT POST

After the interval Wanderers carried on where they had left off. Samuels, who had a good game after missing a week through injury, netted only for the goal to be ruled offside, and then Horseman hit a post off a ruck of players from a free-kick.

It was the 60th minute before Wycombe broke the spell of charmed life that had surrounded the Walthamstow goal.

With their hardy supporters urging them on they did everything but score until Samuels headed home Bates' third corner in as many minutes.

It was at this stage that Wanderers lost their grip for a short time and in a breakaway movement, the big, awkward-looking Jackson headed in a simple looking goal from a Brewer cross.

Prominent in any Walthamstow raids was the former Chelsea and

Amateur International inside-forward Jim Lewis. The player, who has won 49 England caps, was playing his first game since October.

Bates, once more hearing the roar of the Loakes Park fans, had the shot of the game in the 82nd minute. The ball was cleared from the left and the centre-forward, standing well outside the penalty box, hit it first time. It went goalwards like a rocket and Granger did well to tip it over the bar.

Horseman got the fourth, his third, right on time when he headed in a Bates free-kick. It rounded off a fine performance by the lively inside-left.

The whole of the Wycombe team played well with Baker again putting in a great deal of work.

Wycombe. — Maskell, Bradshaw, Beck; Baker, Rundle, Gale; Roystone, Samuels, Bates, Horseman, Merrick.

Walthamstow Ave. — Granger; Gray, Brewer; Bazin, Clarke, King; Wooton, Lewis, O'Shea, Jackson, Hopwood.